

7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope the children have had a good holiday and are ready to face the challenges of Year 6. It will be a year of hard work but lots of fun too.

### The curriculum

Out topic up until Christmas is Britain since 1930's and a topic overview for term 1 is attached and can also be found on the school website. We will look at changes through the decades but will focus on World War 2, including the most significant events of the war and what life was like at that time. Where possible, I will link our work in English to our topic, for example, we will study the book "The boy in the Striped Pyjamas," which is sensitively told from the perspective of a ten year old German boy. Other English work will develop from the "Diary of Anne Frank" and "Goodnight Mr Tom."

Our maths work will cover all aspects of number, especially using the four operations to solve problems. We will work on decimals, fractions, percentages and algebra, as well as data handling and shape and space. In RE we will find out about Sikhism, which will include a trip to Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend. In science we will learn about light and if you happen to have any shoe boxes with lids, please send them in, as we will need them for our science very soon. We will have P.E. sessions every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child has **named** P.E. kit, including t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit bottoms, sweatshirt and trainers. This year, music will again be taught by Mrs Jaggard, enabling the children to continue to develop their ukulele skills and of course, we are lucky to have Mrs Ward to continue to teach Italian.

### Home learning

The children have all been given a reading journal. Reading remains the most important home learning and the children should read every day. It is still important to listen to your child read out loud occasionally, discussing what they have read. **Please encourage your child to read and to record their reading in their journal, which will be checked in school daily.** It is also essential for the children to have instant recall of multiplication and division facts, up to 12 x 12. Additional home learning will vary, but will often comprise maths to reinforce learning that has taken place in school. English tasks will also be set, including extended projects and research. The expectation will be that home learning will be completed by all children and the work should be of a high standard. Having said that, the children will be working very hard during the school day and the amount of home learning set will be manageable, allowing them to pursue wider interests and to relax and have fun outside school.

### Teacher of the Week

Each week, one child will have the opportunity to be the teacher for up to half an hour. The child can choose any subject that interests them to share with the class. 'Lessons' should be prepared in advance and may include a PowerPoint presentation, some interesting objects to look at and an interactive activity for the class to be involved in. Last year's subjects were really wide ranging, from ballet to hidden sugars in food, magic, drones and optical illusions. It's a great opportunity for the children to share areas of interest and expertise, whilst demonstrating their speaking and listening skills. Children should all begin to think about what they may base their lesson on, but need not prepare it yet, as it will take 30 weeks to get through the whole class. We have decided who the first few 'teachers' will be, to give those children time to get organised.

Dates for your diary

- *On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Year 6 will be leading a whole school assembly. You are very welcome to join us for the assembly at 9am if you are able to, and to join Mrs Holditch and me for a cup of tea afterwards!*
- *A secondary transfer meeting for Year 6 parents will take place in the Year 6 classroom on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.*

*This is a significant year for the children. Academically, there are many challenges to face, with the PSE tests for many which are taking place this week and the SATs at the end of the year, as well as the day to day challenges of the curriculum. The children will take on many responsibilities, which really do help the school to run smoothly. There will also be fantastic events to look forward to, including our school journey and our end of year production. In preparation for secondary school, children will be encouraged to show more independence. This may well include them walking to and from school without an adult. If you are happy for your child to do this, may I remind you that written permission must be given for this academic year, even if you gave permission last year. Please complete and return the form below if you wish to do so.*

*If you have any questions, or if at any time you feel that your child feels under pressure, is upset or worried about anything, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and chat to me about it.*

*Best wishes,*

*Louise Grinstead*

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Permission to walk home      Year 6 2016-2017

*Child's name: .....*

*I give permission for my child to walk home after school.*

*I give permission for my child to walk home after an after school club*

*Signed: ..... Date: .....*